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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ApplicantS : Akihiro YASUDA et al.

Group Art Unit : 2852

Appl. No. : 10/575,356

Examiner : R. M. Gleitz

I.A. Filed : April 11, 2006

Confirmation No. : 1651

For : FIXING DEVICE

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statements that were previously filed on February 25, 2008 and July 6, 2006, Applicants hereby bring to the attention of the Examiner a Chinese Office Action dated February 29, 2008 with respect to patent family member Chinese Patent Application No. 200480029005.1 in which the following documents were cited:

- (1) JP 2002-148983 A; which is submitted together with an English language Abstract of the same;
- (2) JP 2001-125407 A;
- (3) JP 2003-077645 A; and
- (4) US 5,752,148.

The relevance of these documents, as ascertained with respect to the Chinese claims by the Chinese Examiner, is set forth in the Chinese Office Action.

Applicants note that above-noted documents (2) and (3) were previously cited in the Information Disclosure Statement of July 6, 2006, and thus copies of documents (2) and (3) are not provided herewith.

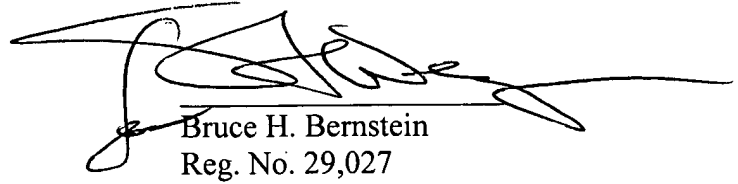
Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii), a copy of the U.S. patent is not enclosed herewith. However, if a copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. A copy of above-noted document (1) is attached hereto, and all of the documents, with the exception of documents (2) and (3), are listed on an attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of the Chinese Office Action and English language translation is also attached hereto. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form, and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted subsequent to the issuance of a Non-Final Office Action on the merits, but before the issuance of a Final Office Action on the merits. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d), Applicants hereby certify that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement (i.e., above-noted documents (1) and (4)) was first cited in any communication from an foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement. Thus, no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Akihiro YASUDA et al.



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April 15, 2008
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